REMARKS

In response to the objection to the drawings, as set forth in paragraph 1 of the Office Action, corrected formal drawings are submitted herewith. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of objection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22 were originally submitted in this application. Claims 18 and 22 were cancelled by the Preliminary Amendment, while Claims 11 and 15 have been cancelled herein. New Claim 23 has been added. Accordingly, Claims 1-10, 12-14, 16, 17, 19-21 and 23 remain pending in this application.

Claims 1-4, 7-10 and 15-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as anticipated by Alewine et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,150,961), while Claims 5, 6 and 19-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Alewine et al in view of Grube et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,031,455). In addition, Claims 11-14 have been rejected as unpatentable over Alewine et al in view of Tracy et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,150,955). However, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims remaining of record in this application distinguish over the cited references, whether considered separately or in combination.

By the foregoing amendment, Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate substantially the limitations of Claims 11 and 15, which have been cancelled.

Claim 23 has been added, and finds support in the specification at least at page 4, lines 20-32, page 6, lines 6-9, page 7, lines 21-22 and page 8, lines 14-16.

Claim 1 as amended recites a step of wirelessly transmitting location-dependent data from an external data source to a mobile telephone. None of the cited prior art references discloses or suggests such a feature. In particular, the cited prior art documents are all concerned with measurements taken by a built-in sensor or by a sensor which may be temporarily connected to a portable communication device. Alternatively, the position of the portable communication device itself is the measured parameter.

The invention as defined in amended Claim 1 allows data to be sent by an external data source to a mobile telecommunications system for immediate or delayed onward transmission. This arrangement has particular advantages, for example, for utility companies, such as water gas or electric suppliers, enabling them to provide measurement apparatus which can transmit measurements to any suitable mobile communications device which is in the vicinity. This enables remote reading of the utility companies apparatus without need to install a dedicated dated transmission network. Since in some embodiments, the mobile communications device is able to store data received wirelessly from the external data source, it is possible to provide remote reading of such data sources, even in remote areas where the communications devices themselves (e.g., mobile telephones) are unable to operate.

The portable communications device may store the received data until it is taken into a less remote area, where communication service is available once again, as recited in Claim 23. This arrangement is advantageous, for example, where a flow meter on a remote stream may provide readings to mobile telephones carried by any persons who happen to be passing through the vicinity, even where the flow meter itself is in a location without any available communication network.

Claim 1 emphasizes the feature that the data from the data source are transmitted to any portable communication device or mobile telephone which happens to be in the vicinity of the data source. For example, a river flow meter in a very remote location may repeatedly transmit data, in case a portable telephone communications device or mobile telephone is within range. Thus, even assuming that only, for example, 10 motor vehicles pass within the range of the flow meter each day, there is a high probability that at least one of these vehicles will be carrying a portable telecommunications device capable of receiving the data from the flow meter. The latter may then retransmit the data to the data collection point. In particular, in the case of mobile telephones, there may be insufficient service in a remote location for immediate retransmission. In this case, the mobile telephone may store the data for retransmission when a mobile telephone reaches a location where sufficient service is provided. The invention thus allows a stationary data source, such as the previously mentioned

flow meter, to be read at the earliest possible opportunity, without need to provide any dedicated communications infrastructure, and without requiring a meter reader to be dispatched to collect the data. This is so, even though the operator of the motor telephone or other communications device may have no involvement in and no interest in the data being collected.

Claim 1 further recites that the location-dependent data are received from the data source "in a mobile telephone which is in a standby mode and is carried by a passing user". (This limitation is supported at least at page 9, lines 17-19 of the application as originally filed.) None of the cited references teaches or suggests such a method. Moreover, this feature of Claim 1 provides a significant advantage in that the location-dependent data may be collected by passing users who happen to carry mobile telephones in a standby mode, representing a significant saving of time and expense to organizations which would otherwise be obliged to dispatch an operator with dedicated meter reading equipment to the locality in question, or to provide a dedicated infrastructure for relaying data to the organization.

Turning to the cited references, Applicants note that both Alewine et al and Crane et al disclose a method and system for monitoring traffic flows, which depend on tracking the location of mobile communications devices, such as mobile (cellular) telephones carried in vehicles. Sumner, on the other hand, describes a system for collecting traffic flow information from a variety of sources

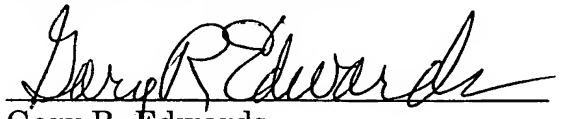
and transmitting it to a mobile communications device in a vehicle, in order to provide traffic information to the driver of that vehicle. Various options are provided to customize the presented data to insure that it is relevant to each driver. Moreover, Tracy et al provides a meter reading device, with built-in mobile telephone (e.g., GSM), capable of reading a legacy utility meter and transmitting such meter readings over a mobile telephone channel.

In addition, Grube et al discloses a system of portable devices, such as mobile telephones, that are equipped with sensors. The sensor measures a feature of the immediate environment, and provides a measured data to a central data base. Finally, Johnson et al also relates to remote meter-reading systems. Data are sent from network service modules to a central data terminal. A network of meter reading devices with transmitters is established to provide consumption information to the utility company. It is apparent from the foregoing brief description that none of the cited references teaches or suggests the features of the present invention as described and discussed above.

In light of the foregoing remarks, this application should be in condition for allowance, and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #3036/50649).

Respectfully submitted,



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